Vidya Bharti Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Sansthan

4345. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of an organisation called the Vidya Bharati Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Sansthan;

(b) whether this organisation has set up many schools in different parts of the country; and

(c) if so, what is the total number of these schools and the names of States in which they are located ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to(c) As informed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) the Vidya Bharti Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Sansthan has not applied for affiliation of any school with them. The Government do not recognise or register an organisation running schools.

Central Open Universities in North-Eastern Region

4346. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of central open universities set up in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern region, during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether Government have any plan to set up any open university in the North-Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No central open university has been established in the country during the last three years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)—a Central University, has already established its two Regional Centres at Guwahati and Shillong and 55 Study Centres to cater to the needs of students in the North-

Eastern Region. During 1999-2000, the Central Government has given additional grant of Rs. 8.00 crore to IGNOU for establishment of more Regional and Study Centres in the North-Eastern Region.

Progress Rate of Literacy

4347. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to UNDP (1999) estimates, at the current rate progress achieved in literacy, the BIMARU States will take another 100 years to achieve universal literacy for their female population;

(b) if so, in what manner Government plan to usher in universal literacy within 25 years in these States;

(c) in what manner Government plan for making education a fundamental right of the citizens would help in making our countrymen universally literate; and

(d) what is the annual external aid Agencies contribution to primary education in the year 1999-2000; 2000-2001 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No Sir. According to Human Development Report 1999—UNDP the female literacy rate for India during 1997 is 39.4%. The female literacy rate for BIMARU States has not been given in the report. However, according to National Sample Survay Organisation (NSSO) Report ending 1997 female literacy within the country is 50%. The literacy rate of the BIMARU States as per 1991 Census and according to the NSSO Survey report ending 1997 is as under:—

Name of State	Literacy Rate 1991	Literacy Rate 1997
Bihar	22.9	34
Madhya Pradesh	28.8	41
Andhra Pradesh	32.7	43
Rajasthan	20.4	35
Uttar Pradesh	25.3	41